

Testimony Senate Bill #287

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The Wellness Education Center, Kalispell, Montana

I wish I could be with you personally today, but I am teaching in Kalispell. Please accept this written testimony, as read by, Jena Silva.

In August of 1998, I was given 2 months to live. Facing my 5th recurrence of malignant melanoma, after 4 surgeries and strong drugs didn't cure me, I chose to go on a natural healing journey.

I attended alternative medicine programs nationwide and learned why I got cancer in the first place and how to boost my natural immune system. Eventually, the good Lord helped me put together a natural program that completely healed me.

I felt called to leave behind a very successful real estate career and dedicate my life to helping others. I received my Health Educator certification at the renowned Hippocrates Health Institute in Florida.

I founded the Wellness Education Center in the Flathead in 2001. I do not pay myself and I gainfully employ 5 local people and support local businesses. At WEC, we teach that health is impacted by Lifestyle factors, including: diet, exercise, stress management, spiritual nourishment, toxicity and environment. Through education, we believe that people can make lifestyle changes which will help them regain and maintain optimal health.

Over 2,000 people have attended our programs since mid-2001. We have helped people of all ages and walks of life (including doctors and nurses) who have come to us with a varied list of diseases and illnesses. In February 2009, we will hold our 90th Guided Juice Fast, which is designed to renourish and heal as students gently detoxify their body, mind, spirit and environment.

Most diseases can be traced to body system imbalances and depressed immunity. Fasting starts a new cycle of restored balance. We teach students how to make lifestyle and diet changes that free up immune energy and promote optimal health as they continue on their healing journey.

We also encourage students to explore alternative therapies which are readily available in Montana, such as naturopathic doctors, massage, reflexology, colonics, acupuncture, herbs, and others. These therapies also help restore balance and boost the body's natural defenses.

The American pharmaceutical companies advertises voraciously and encourage people into a cycle of drugs for symptom relief - said drugs creating side effects which often require other drugs for management. It is becoming less popular to search out the root cause of disease and make necessary lifestyle changes. The fault also lies with the patient. It is simpler to take a pill than change eating, exercise, emotional and spiritual habits.

Only through education can we turn that trend around. After attending our programs, hundreds of people have reduced or eliminated prescription medications, under the guidance of their doctors.

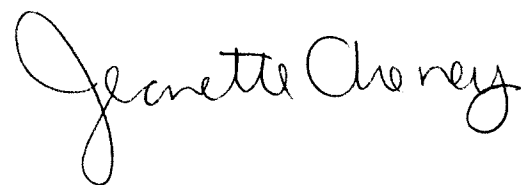
The record is held by a 370-lb., 65 year old man from Bigfork who was on 13 prescription drugs, including 120 units of insulin daily for decades of Type II diabetes, to which he had lost part of his foot, and numerous drugs for 10 years of congestive heart failure and related issues. His thank you note is attached.

Within 8 months, he has lost 110 pounds and is off all of his insulin and all but 1 of the other drugs. He has been pronounced heart healthy by his cardiologist. He is vital, healthy and no longer a drain on the medical system. Unfortunately, medical insurance would not cover a dime of our

low cost program, but the system will certainly benefit from the savings created.

Please support SB No. 287 for Consumer Freedom and Access to alternative healing services. Montana is blessed with so many wonderful, health care practitioners who are not covered under Title 37. We are grateful for modern medicine and those services regulated by Title 37, but we need to encourage, not limit, complementary, holistic and alternative healing modalities.

Thank you for your careful and informed consideration of SB 287

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeannette Chorney". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right area of the page.